

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The amendments to Claims 1 and 2 are based on the telephone interview of August 25, 2003. At that time, Applicant again pointed out to the Examiner that thermal rolls having annular projections, one of which has a wave-like or zig-zag shape, are not taught by Johnson or Francis. Figure 8 of Francis simply shows the shape of the formed material in the (three dimensional) direction of the thickness of the material. Figure 7 of Francis shows that the annular ones of the projections, i.e., projections 50 and 56, of the rolls form a series of straight lines, not a wavelike or zig-zag shape. In response, the Examiner took the position that the material shape in Figure 8 of Francis must be formed by rolls having a zig-zag shape, as viewed in that section. Nonetheless, it was agreed that Figure 8 of Francis does not provide evidence of rolls having a wavelike or zig-zag shape as viewed in the plane of the film. Rather, as Applicant pointed out, the annular ones of the projections of Francis, i.e., projections 50 and 56, of the rolls form a series of straight lines, not a wavelike or zig-zag shape. It was therefore agreed that the claims would be amended to clarify this distinction, e.g., to recite that at least one of the annular projections has a wavelike or zig-zag shape such that the strippable seal has a wavelike or zig-zag shape *as viewed in the plane of the film*. This has been done in the present response, and so the claims are believed to define over the cited prior art.

An Information Disclosure Statement based on an Office Action in the Japanese priority application is being submitted herewith.

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Response to Office Action of May 9, 2003

Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicits an early notice of allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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